

## DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**Project Title:** Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Agricultural Discharges Originating within the Bard Unit of the Reservation Division, Imperial County, California

**State Clearinghouse Number:**

**Lead Agency Name and Address:** California Regional Water Quality Control Board,  
Colorado River Basin Region,  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100,  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

**Contact Person and Phone Number:** Doug Wylie, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board,  
(760) 776-8960

**Project Location:** Colorado River Basin Region (southeastern California), Imperial County

**Project Description:** The proposed project is a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural wastewater discharges originating within the Bard Unit of the Reservation Division. This Conditional Waiver applies to agricultural wastewater discharges from irrigated lands, specifically: 1) storm water runoff from irrigated lands, and 2) irrigation return water, which includes surface discharges (also known as “tailwater”), and subsurface discharges (known as “tilewater” in tiled areas, or “seepage” in areas not tiled). It also applies to discharges of wastes from drain operation and maintenance (O&M) activities in the area. Most agricultural wastewater discharges in the Bard Unit are collected into open drains, tributary to the Colorado River. The purpose of the Conditional Waiver is to protect the beneficial uses of water in Bard Unit Drains by ensuring that farmers and drainage maintenance entities implement management practices (MPs) to reduce pollutant concentrations in agricultural wastewater and in discharges from drain O&M activities.

**Finding:** The Regional Water Board has prepared an Initial Study of the project described above and has determined that the proposed issuance of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements will not have a significant effect on the environment. A copy of the Initial Study that supports this finding is attached.

**Mitigation Measures:** Based on the conclusions provided in the attached Initial Study, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required

---

Signature

---

Date